

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended): A phytase-containing granulate prepared by ~~at least one mechanical process~~ extrusion comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer;

(b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and

(c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram;

~~wherein said at least one mechanical process is selected from the group consisting of expansion, granulate is prepared by extrusion, spheronisation, pelleting, high shear granulation, and drum granulation wherein the granulate does not contain fibrous materials.~~

19. (currently amended): A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer and at least one divalent cation;

wherein the granulate does not contain fibrous materials.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

22. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

23. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

24. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or  $\beta$ -glucanase.

25. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the carrier comprises starch.

26. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

27. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

28. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.

29-30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented): A composition comprising:  
a granulate according to claim 18.

32. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.

33. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.

34. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

35. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substance(s) or ingredient(s).

36-40. (canceled)

41. (new): A composition comprising:  
a granulate according to claim 19.

42. (new): The composition according to claim 41 which is an edible feed composition.

43. (new): The composition according to claim 41 which is an animal feed.

44. (new): The composition according to claim 41, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

45. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

46. (new): The granulate according to claim 45 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

47. (new): The granulate according to claim 46 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

48. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or  $\beta$ -glucanase.

49. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the carrier comprises starch.

50. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

51. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

52. (new): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.